175 leaders then imprisoned in Siberia and in various Russian jails. The most prominent of them was the lawyer, P. E. Svinhufvud, who upon his return was made the head of the senate, the temporary government of Finland--there being no Czar or Grand Duke any more. This government took a decisive step on 6 December 1917 proclaiming Finland an independent state free from Russia and appealing to the statement made by Lenin that no nation was to be held by Russia without its own consent. The independence of Finland was first acknowledged by France, then by Sweden, Russia and other European countries, and finally by Great Britain and the United States in May, 1919.

175 But it was apparent that Lenin was not going to be true to his promise. Russian troops

175 669 troops landed in southern Finland, but there was only scattered resistance now, and on May 16, 1918, Mannerheim rode into Helsinki amidst music and flowers at the head of his army, a striking figure on his white steed, admired and glorified like a god by one-half of the nation and bitterly hated by the other.

642 175 Beginning its existence as an independent state did not create any administrative difficulties, since Finland had long possessed the basic institutions and trained officials. But the nation was still divided. Aware of the danger inherent in the internal dissension now plaguing the new government, Mannerheim urged mutual forgiveness and understanding, and advocated unity between the Scandinavian countries to which Finland belonged by its very nature, customs, ideology and history.

Annex "A," Subparagraph 2a,

Political Background

THE CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM

642 The present Finnish Constitution, dating from 1919, includes the basic principles of a modern democracy, and no amendments to its essential parts have been proposed since the two recent wars. Finland by its Constitution is a republic, ruled by the people through their representatives in the Diet, and the executive powers are trusted to a President of the Republic and to his ministers responsible to the Diet.

643 The President is chosen for a period of six years by 300 electors appointed by general election. To be elected a candidate must receive more than one-half of the total votes. The powers of the President are greater than in many other republics. For instance, he may summon